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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/577,569	05/25/2000	Kiyonori Sekiguchi	P19529	6332

7055 7590 05/06/2004

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EXAMINER

LIN, KENNY S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2154

16

DATE MAILED: 05/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/577,569

Applicant(s)

SEKIGUCHI, KIYONORI

Examiner

Kenny Lin

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– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address –
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 April 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 12-15, 19-22 and 24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-15, 19-22 and 24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 15.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 12-15, 19-22 and 24 are presented for examination. Claims 1-11, 16-18 and 23 are canceled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 12-14, 19-20, 22 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akatsu et al (hereinafter Akatsu), US 6,496,862, in view of Lo et al (hereinafter Lo), US 6,324,178, and Cardillo, IV et al (hereinafter Cardillo), US 5,937,041.

4. Akatsu and Lo were cited in the previous office action.

5. As per claims 12 and 22, Akatsu taught the invention substantially as claimed including a gateway apparatus capable of connecting to the Internet, the gateway apparatus being one of a plurality of components in a home network (col.6, lines 33-58, col.8, lines 66-67, col.9, line 1), the home network including a transmitting apparatus connected to the gateway apparatus (col.6, lines 43-45) and an external input device connected with the gateway apparatus (PC, col.6, lines 40-46, col.9, lines 2-17), the gateway apparatus comprising:

- a. A communicator that is configured to communicate with a receiving apparatus through the Internet (col.9, lines 30-31, 33);
- b. A controller that is configured to receive data (col.9, lines 2-6), to configure the data for Internet transmission (col.9, lines 2-6), the IP address assigned to the receiving apparatus being input by the external input device (col.6, lines 40-46, col.9, lines 2-17).

6. Akatsu did not specifically teach that the transmitting apparatus does not have an IP address; the controller to generate an Internet-frame based on the data received from the transmitting apparatus and an IP address which is assigned to a receiving apparatus and to send the Internet-frame to the receiving apparatus through the communicator. Lo taught a gateway for bridging data of different communication domains to include a controller to generate an Internet-frame based on the data received from the transmitting apparatus an IP address which is assigned to a receiving apparatus (col.1, lines 45-49, col.4, lines 52-57, col.5, lines 13-14, col.6, lines 1-19, 31-37, 43-46, col.8, lines 32-43); and to send the Internet-frame to the receiving apparatus through the communicator (col.6, lines 43-46). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Akatsu and Lo because Lo's teaching of reformatting the received data and an IP address provides Akatsu's gateway to reformat data to support all communication standards (col.1, lines 40-49, col.2, lines 56-57, col.4, lines 52-55).

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7. Akatsu and Lo did not specifically teach that the transmitting apparatus does not have an IP address. However, since Lo taught to support any communication standard (col.4, lines 52-55), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use non-IP apparatuses in a communication domain as transmitting apparatuses to send data to be bridged to another communication domain. Cardillo taught to transmit requesting messages using apparatus that does not have IP address over the Internet (phone, col.4, lines 30-45). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Akatsu, Lo and Cardillo because Cardillo's teaching of use non-IP apparatus that transmits data enables Akatsu and Lo's system to support and bridge data transmitted from apparatuses that does not have IP addresses (Lo, col.4, lines 52-55).

8. As per claims 19 and 24, Akatsu taught the invention substantially as claimed including a gateway apparatus capable of connecting to the Internet, the apparatus being one of plurality of components in a home network (col.6, lines 33-58, col.8, lines 66-67, col.9, line 1), the apparatus comprising:

- a. An interface that is configured to connect with a receiving apparatus (col.7, lines 15-17);
- b. A communicator that is configured to communicate with a transmitting apparatus through the Internet (col.9, lines 30-31, 33);
- c. An application program which converts received data into data which the receiving apparatus can interpret (col.9, lines 2-6).

9. Akatsu did not specifically teach that the receiving apparatus does not have an IP address; a memory that is configured to store an IP address corresponding to the receiving apparatus not having the IP address and an application program which converts received data into data which the receiving apparatus not having the IP address can interpret; and a controller that is configured to receive an Internet-frame including the IP address corresponding to the receiving apparatus not having the IP address and data from the transmitting apparatus, to search the memory for the receiving apparatus not having the IP address to which the data is to be transferred, based on the corresponding IP address included in the Internet-frame, and to transfer the data to the receiving apparatus not having the IP address; wherein said controller converts the received data into data which the receiving apparatus not having the IP address can interpret, by utilizing the application program in the memory, when the received data is data which the receiving apparatus not having the IP address can not interpret.

10. Lo taught a gateway for bridging data of different communication domains to include a memory that is configured to store an IP address corresponding to the receiving apparatus and an application program which converts received data into data which the receiving apparatus can interpret (col.6, lines 18-21, col.8, lines 32-43); and a controller that is configured to receive an Internet-frame including the IP address corresponding to the receiving apparatus and data from the transmitting apparatus (col.1, lines 45-49, col.4, lines 52-57, col.5, lines 13-14, 19-23, col.6, lines 1-19, 31-37, 43-46, col.8, lines 32-43), to search the memory for the receiving apparatus not having the IP address to which the data is to be transferred, based on the corresponding IP address included in the Internet-frame (col.6, lines 18-21, col.8, lines 32-43); and to transfer the

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data to the receiving apparatus (col.6, lines 43-46) wherein said controller converts the received data into data which the receiving apparatus can interpret (col.6, lines 1-19, 31-37, 43-46, col.8, lines 32-43), by utilizing the application program in the memory, when the received data is data which the receiving apparatus can not interpret (col.6, lines 1-19, 31-37, 43-46, col.8, lines 32-43). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Akatsu and Lo because Lo's teaching of converting the received data provides Akatsu's gateway to reformat data to support all communication standards (col.1, lines 40-49, col.2, lines 56-57, col.4, lines 52-55).

11. Akatsu and Lo did not specifically teach that the receiving apparatus does not have an IP address. However, since Lo taught to support any communication standard (col.4, lines 52-55), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use non-IP apparatuses in a communication domain as receiving apparatuses to receive data to that are bridged from another communication domain. Cardillo taught to transmit requesting messages using apparatus that does not have IP address over the Internet, receiving requested data and to convert the data into data format which the receiving apparatus can interpret (phone, col.4, lines 30-45). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Akatsu, Lo and Cardillo because Cardillo's teaching of use non-IP apparatus that transmits data enables Akatsu and Lo's system to support and bridge data transmitted from apparatuses that does not have IP addresses (Lo, col.4, lines 52-55).

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12. As per claim 13, Akatsu, Lo and Cardillo taught the invention substantially as claimed in claim 12. Akatsu further taught that the input device is a personal computer (PC, col.6, lines 40-46, col.9, lines 2-17).

13. As per claim 14, Akatsu, Lo and Cardillo taught the invention substantially as claimed in claim 12. Akatsu further taught that the controller configures the data into TCP packets for Internet transmission and generates an Internet-frame based on the TCP packet (col.6, lines 63-67, col.9, lines 2-17, 30-31, 33, 54-59, col.10, lines 57-67, col.11, lines 1-5).

14. As per claim 20, Akatsu, Lo and Cardillo taught the invention substantially as claimed in claim 19. Akatsu further taught that the data from the receiving apparatus is configured into TCP packets (col.6, lines 63-67, col.9, lines 2-17, 30-31, 33, 54-59, col.10, lines 57-67, col.11, lines 1-5).

15. Claims 15 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akatsu, Lo and Cardillo as applied to claims 12 and 19 above, and further in view of "Official Notice".

16. As per claims 15 and 21, Akatsu, Lo and Cardillo taught the invention substantially as claimed in claims 12 and 19. Akatsu further taught that the transmitting apparatus is at least one of a printer, a television, a digital camera (col.6, lines 43-46). Akatsu, Lo and Cardillo did not specifically teach that the transmitting apparatus not provided with an IP address is at least one of a scanner, a refrigerator, a hot-water supply, an electric power meter and a water meter.

However, Official Notice is taken that the limitations narrowed by these claims are consider obvious and furthermore a matter of design choice. It would have been obvious for the homeowner to include different apparatuses in the home network including but not limited to the listed group. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply different apparatus that does not have direct internet access function to Akatsu, Lo and Cardillo's home network according to one's need or desire.

Response to Arguments

17. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 12-15, 19-22 and 24 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

18. Examiner has cited new area of Akatsu and Cardillo reference in rejecting the limitation of a receiving apparatus not having IP address and external Input device.

Conclusion

19. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Ardalan et al, US 6,396,839.

Maeshima, US 6,501,742.

Roderiquet et al, US 5,841,764.

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20. A shortened statutory period for reply to this Office action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action.

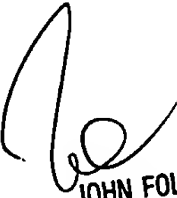
21. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kenny Lin whose telephone number is (703)305-0438. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM to 5 PM Tuesday to Friday and every other Monday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on (703)305-8498. Additionally, the fax numbers for Group 2100 are as follows:

Official Responses: (703) 872-9306

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)305-6121.

ksl
April 30, 2004


JOHN FOLLANSBEE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100